

May 18, 2000

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for the time you took last week to meet with my colleagues and me regarding CALFED and related issues. I hope you found it to be a productive meeting. I greatly appreciate the support you expressed during the meeting for effective groundwater management and for secure funding for ecosystem restoration and water use efficiency. I also appreciate the concern you expressed regarding proposals to roll back implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

I would also like to suggest a possible follow up action regarding a comment you made regarding surface storage. You said that you did not understand how we could oppose new surface storage facilities designed to store water during wet years for use in dry years. It is important to note that river systems need peak flow events. Nevertheless, many others have offered this same proposal. Unfortunately, CALFED has not prepared such an analysis for the surface storage facilities it is considering. Quite the contrary, CALFED has analyzed "high yield" scenarios for these facilities that would have serious environmental impacts. I encourage you to communicate your suggestion to CALFED and to urge them to undertake such a "wet year only" surface storage analysis. Such an analysis would be consistent with your suggestion and that of many others and would, I believe, help inform the debate regarding this divisive issue. I have taken the liberty of copying this letter to Susan Kennedy, David Hayes and Steve Ritchie, in the hope that CALFED will pursue this analysis.

We remain committed to a balanced and durable CALFED solution and look forward to working with you to achieve this outcome. Thank you again for your time and your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,



Barry Nelson  
Senior Policy Analyst

cc: Susan Kennedy

71 Stevenson Street  
Suite 1825  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415 777-0220  
Fax 415 495-5996

David Hayes  
Steve Ritchie

6310 San Vicente Boulevard  
Suite 250  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
323 934-6900  
Fax 323 934-1210

1200 New York Ave., N.W.  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
202 289-6868  
Fax 202 289-1060

40 West 20th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
212 727-2700  
Fax 212 727-1773

www.nrdc.org